Doctor of Veterinary Medicine/Master of Public Health (DVM/MPH) Combination Degree

Applicants interested in veterinary public health should consider the DVM/MPH combination degree program at the University of Florida. UF is fortunate to have both a College of PublicHealth and Health Professions and a College of Veterinary Medicine on the main campus, making the combination DVM/MPH degree unique in the state of Florida. Veterinarians with MPH degrees are increasingly in demand because of their involvement in all areas of public health, including epidemiology, environmental health, global health, infectious disease investigation and control, and homeland security. Public health-trained veterinarians are uniquely qualified to understand and respond to emerging zoonotic diseases, to address complex global food system problems, and to respond to acts of bioterrorism.

The DVM/MPH degree is offered jointly by the College of Public Health and Health Professions and the College of Veterinary Medicine. If taken consecutively, the DVM and MPH degrees at UF are 150 and 48 credits, respectively, and require 6 years of coursework. The Combination DVM/MPH Program permits sufficient sharing of course credits to allow completion of the program in 4 years plus 1 summer semester for students who enter both programs concurrently. DVM students who choose to enter the combination program after completing one or more years of the DVM program may require an extra semester after completing the DVM. Key elements of the program are described briefly below. Details are in the MPH Student Handbook.

Hallmarks of the Program

- The Combination DVM/MPH Program may be completed within the four-year timeframe required for a DVM degree alone by starting MPH coursework the summer beforeentering the DVM program.
- Students have the flexibility of the Public Health Practice concentration, which allows selection of courses from two or more concentration areas.
- MPH core courses and select concentration core courses may be taken online.
- The MPH program will accept 12 credits of DVM courses toward the MPH degree, and the DVM program will accept 6 credits of MPH courses towards the DVM degree.

MPH Concentrations

Students will focus on Public Health Practice concentration which allows selection of courses from two or more of the other five MPH concentrations: Biostatistics, Environmental Health, Epidemiology, Population Health Management, and Social and Behavioral Sciences. Most students choose Epidemiology and Environmental Health due to the significant amount of overlap with veterinary medicine, although they may choose from any of the concentration options. Please visit https://mph.ufl.edu/about/concentration-options/ for a description of each concentration.

Applied Practice Experience Requirement

Students enrolled in the combination degree program must complete a public health internship (i.e., applied practice experience or APE), which provides an opportunity for each student to apply his or her knowledge in the real world of public health. For most students, the internship will be completed, over one or more semesters, near the end of the combination degree program. Students may engage in many activities during an internship. However, each student must develop, for the benefit of their APE site, at least two professional work products that demonstrate at least five MPH competencies.

MPH Capstone Project

Students obtain a broad knowledge base of public health issues and perspectives through the MPH core courses and electives. The concepts presented in these courses are integrated and assimilated through completion of the Capstone project, which serves as the basis for a formally written paper and a professional presentation, which serves as the final exam milestone for the MPH program. These final activities of the MPH program are intended to encourage students to understand their projects in the largercontext of public health as a cross-disciplinary field and in relation to the competencies expected of all MPH graduates. Student presentations are scheduled on Public Health Days near the end of the fall, spring and summer semesters.

Sample MPH Curriculum

A sample of the MPH curriculum for Combination DVM/MPH Program students is in the table below, including a range of courses from which students may choose. Courses listed below are offered online in semesters shown. While most DVM students will take the majority of their MPH requirements in the summer semesters, there are online courses offered in the Fall and Spring semester that you may elect to take as well.

I. Public Health Core: 18 credits required		**Credits**	***Semester**
PHC 6050/2	Statistical Methods for Health Sciences I **OR** Introduction to Biostatistical Methods	3	F, S
PHC 6001	Principles of Epidemiology	3	F, S, ss
PHC 6313	Environmental Health Concepts in PH	3	S, ss *(even)*
HSA 6114	Introduction to US Healthcare Systems	3	ss
PHC 6410	Psychological, Behavioral, and Social Issues in PH	3	F, S
PHC 6940	Master of Public Health Capstone	3	F, S, ss
II. Research Methods Course		**Credits**	***Semester**
PHC 6700	Social & Behavioral Research Methods	3	ss
PHC 6053	Regression Methods for the Health and Life Sciences	3	S
III. Concentration Cores			
Biostatistics (Requires PHC 6052)			
PHC 6053	Regression Methods for the Health and Life Sciences	3	S
Epidemiology (Requires PHC 6052)			
PHC 6002	Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases	3	ss
PHC 6003	Epidemiology of Chronic Disease	3	F

Environmental Health (Requires PHC 6052)			
PHC 6304	Environmental Toxicology	3	F
Population Health Management (Requires PHC 6050 or PHC 6052)			
PHC 6104	Evidence-Based Management of Public Health Programs	3	F
PHC 6103	Systems Thinking and Public Health	3	ss
Social and Behavioral Sciences (Requires PHC 6050 or PHC 6052)			
PHC 6700	Social & Behavioral Research Methods	3	ss
PHC 6251	Assessment and Surveillance in Public Health	3	S
PHC 6405	Theoretical Foundations in Public Health	3	ss
PHC 6146	Public Health Program Planning and Evaluation	3	F
PHC 6195	Health Information for Diverse Populations: Theory & Methods	3	S
IV. Electives			
PHC 6183	Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Response	3	F,ss
PHC 6447	Ecology of HIV/AIDS in Rural South	3	F
PHC 6704	Community-Based Participatory Research	3	F
PHC 6937	Social Stratification and Health	3	F
PHC 6009	Bio/Epi of HIV and aids	3	ss (even)
PHC 6441	Health Disparities	3	S
PHC 6451	Building Resiliency in Individuals and Communities	3	ss
PHC 6519	Zoonotic Diseases in Humans and Animals	3	S,ss
HAS 6115	Intro to Management of Health Services Organizations	3	S
PHC 6404	Gender, Sexuality, and Health	3	S
PHC 6521	Fundamentals of Public Health Nutrition	3	S
PHC 6520	Intro to Food Borne Diseases	3	S (even)
PHC 6534	Trauma Informed Approaches	3	S
V. Internship: 3-6 credits		**Credits**	***Semester**
PHC 6941	Applied Practice Experience	3-6	F, S, ss

*F=Fall; S=Spring; ss=Summer. Class schedules are subject to change.

† 42-credit concentration requires previous completion of a terminal health-related degree.

Accepted Courses for MPH Combination Degree Programs (12 Credits Required)

DVM/MPH (Choose 12 credits)		**Credits**	***Semester**
VEM 5141	Veterinary Microbiology	3	Varies
VEM 5150	Veterinary Parasitology	1	Varies
VEM 5172	Veterinary Toxicology	1	Varies
VEM 5503	Veterinary Epidemiology	2	Varies
VEM 5504	Veterinary Preventive and Production Medicine	2	Varies
VEM 5143	Small Animal Applied Veterinary Microbiology	1	Varies
VEM 5144	Large Animal Applied Veterinary Microbiology	1	Varies
VEM 5153	Small Animal Parasitology	1	Varies
VEM 5154	Large Animal Parasitology	2	Varies
VEM 5176	Poisonous Plants	1	Varies
VEM 5313	Poultry Diseases	1	Varies
VEM 5322	Shelter Medicine	1	Varies
VEM 5324	Forensic Veterinary Medicine	1	Varies
VEM 5352	Dairy Production Medicine	1	Varies
VEM 5363	Diseases of Laboratory Animals	1	Varies
VEM 5571	Emerging Diseases	1	Varies

What is the Outlook for Veterinarians in Public Health?

Public health career opportunities for veterinarians will continue to expand with the rapidly changing demographics of human and animal populations, increasing urbanization, increasing poverty, the expanding technology gap between developed and developing countries, and changes in the environment, land use and climate. These changes will present new opportunities for public health-trained veterinarians as part of veterinary and human health systems. (Excerpt from Veterinarians in Public Health, prepared by The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, www.aavmc.org).

Admission Criteria

Candidates for the Combination DVM/MPH Program must meet the entrance requirements and procedures for admission to both the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and the Master of Public Health degree programs. Acceptance into the Combination DVM/MPH Program is dependentupon acceptance into the DVM program. Please note however, that the combination application may be due prior to student notification regarding acceptance into the DVM program. The combination degree program is not open to students who have already earned either the DVM or the MPH degree. Additional information regarding admission to the DVM program may be found at http://education.vetmed.ufl.edu/admissions/

Checklist for the University of Florida Combination DVM/MPH Program Application

The application process for the UF Combination DVM/MPH Program is open to any student accepted into the DVM program. However, due to the timing of several deadlines for the MPH portion of the application process, interested students should apply to the MPH program prior to being notified of acceptance into the DVM program. The Combination DVM/MPHProgram application process is coordinated between the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and College of Public Health and Health Professions (CPHHP), and involves the following steps. The stated deadlines must be met in order to begin the Combination DVM/MPH Program in the summer semester of each year:

1. **Apply to the MPH program for Summer semester immediately prior to the Fall of projected Veterinary Medicine school start.**

   A. Submit the following to the UF Graduate School Office of Admissions by **March 1st** of the year you intend to start Veterinary Medicine School.

   UF Graduate School Application Applications may be submitted online at https://admissions.ufl.edu/apply/graduate/. Your applications should include the following:

   - Statement of Intent - The statement should be 500-750 words, and should convey (1) Why you would like to participate in the Combination DVM/MPH Program. (i.e. What professional interests and/or previous experiences make you believethis program is a good fit for you? (2) What you hope to learn/gain through the Combination DVM/MPH Program; and (3) How completion of the Combination DVM/MPH Program will help you achieve your career goals.

- Letters of Recommendation – Letters of recommendation which were submittedwith your UF College of Veterinary Medicine application may be used for the Combination program application. There is no need to request new letters of recommendation. Applicants may request these letters to be sent to the MPH program by contacting Ms. Lynnette Chaparro, Assistant Director of Admissions, Office for Academic and Student Affairs, College of Veterinary Medicine, at (352) 293-4261 or chaparrol@ufl.edu.
- $30 Application fee (See admissions website to verify current fee)

B. Official transcript(s) – these are in addition to the one(s) that were submitted with your UF College of Veterinary Medicine application (i.e. you will need to submit these again to UF admissions office, even if the College of Veterinary Medicine already hasthem).

C. Official TOEFL scores – **For international applicants only**. Submit TOEFL scores to school code 5812. You must submit these again for graduate school purposes, even if the College of Veterinary Medicine already has them.

2. **Notify the Public Health Programs Office and the CVM Office for Academic and Student Affairs that your MPH application materials have been submitted.**

   Please e-mail Mrs. Telisha Martin (martints@phhp.ufl.edu) MPH Associate Director and Mr. Andre McFadden II, Academic Advisor in the Public Health Programs Office (andre2011@phhp.ufl.edu), to let them know when your UF Graduate School application was submitted. Please copy Ms. Lynnette Chaparro (chaparrol@ufl.edu), Assistant Director of Admissions in the Office for Academic and Student Affairs, on this email so that your letters of recommendation can be sent from the CVM to the MPH program.

3. **Apply for financial aid for Summer semester if needed by March 1st. If you do not wish to receive financial aid, you may skip this step.**

   To apply for summer financial aid you must complete the application at the same time you apply to the MPH program. (Please Note: to receive summer term aid you must complete the application for the current academic year. For example, if you wish to receive aid for the Summer of 2023, you should complete the financial aid application for the 2022-2023 academic year. The application for 2023-2024 would refer to the upcoming academic year). Any delay in filing the application may impede assignment of funds for the summer term. If you are unsure if you will need financial aid, please apply anyway as you can always decline later (if you do not apply prior to the March 1 deadline and later decide you do need financial aid, it may be too late to receive aid for the summer). Financial aid application information and forms may be found at: http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/applying/how-to-apply/

If you have questions regarding financial aid for the first summer term as an MPH student, you may contact **Mr. Vincent Wilson-McCoy**, Student Financial Affairs Coordinator for College of Public Health & Health Professions at 273-6115, sfa-hp@mail.ufl.edu. For questions about financial aid after beginning Veterinary Medicine school, you may contact Ms. Kathy Johnson, Student Financial Affairs Coordinator at 352-294-4058 or email at sfa-vet@mail.ufl.edu.

4. **Admission notification and acceptance**

Successful admission to the UF Combination DVM/MPH Program requires that the following three steps be met by the stated deadline:

A. Applicants will be notified whether or not they have been accepted to the UF College of Veterinary Medicine (the DVM program) by **mid-March**.

B. Accepted applicants must return their written acceptance of the DVM program invitation letter to the College of Veterinary Medicine by the posted deadline. Please contact CVM for current acceptance deadline.

C. Applicants will be notified whether or not they have been accepted to the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions (the MPH program) in mid to late March.

D. Accepted applicants must return their written acceptance of the MPH program invitation letter (to the Public Health Programs Office) by **April 15th.**

- A Combination DVM/MPH Degree Program Authorization Form must be completed upon the student's matriculation to the Veterinary medicine program in the Fall semester. It will be initiated by the MPH program but must be signed bythe student and representatives from both colleges and finally submitted to the UF graduate school. This form is necessary to confirm the student's Combination degree status with the Graduate School and to assure that the 12 credits of Veterinary Medicine course work can be shared between the two programs.

5. **Classes**

Summer classes for the MPH program begin in May of each year. Please check UF official dates and deadlines here for course start and end dates: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/Pages/dates-and-deadlines.aspx#ac. A plan of study for the MPH program, which will include your summer schedule will be developed and sent to you by Dr. Traci Krueger who will also serve as your faculty advisor for the DVM/MPH program. Her contact information is listed below. Dr. Isaza Romero will also be a point of contact for Combination DVM-MPH students within theCollege of Veterinary Medicine and can advise students with regards to career paths and elective choices students may want to consider as they pursue their degrees. His contact information is also listed below.

6. **DVM-MPH Tuition**

Per University of Florida regulations, all students participating in the Combination DVM-MPH degree program are converted from MPH only to "Combination Degree" student status upon matriculation into their first Fall semester of Veterinary Medical school. This status requires that students be charged at the Vet Medicine (VM) hourly tuition rate for VM courses and the MPH hourly tuition rate for any MPH courses taken during the program. Both rates are calculated based on the annual block tuition rate for each program. Specifically, students in the Combination DVM/MPH program are currently charged at the MPH per credit hour rate of **$637.11** for all MPH course work and the DVM per credit hour rate of **$765.16** for all DVM course work for the duration of their programs. This includes course work taken during all summer semesters which will have requiredenrollment in either public health or veterinary medicine course work.

It is important to note that this tuition status impacts Combination program student fees differently than DVM-only students who are charged the VM block tuition rate. For semesters where the Combination DVM-MPH student takes less than 18.75 DVM credit hours ina semester, they will pay less than the VM block rate however in semesters where they enroll in more than 18.75 DVM credits, the Combination DVM-MPH student will pay more than the VM block rate. Additionally, during summer months, DVM-MPH students will pay the VM hourly rate for any VM courses taken whereas DVM-only students paying the VM block rate in Fall and Spring semesters will not be charged tuition during summer months.

For more information regarding the tuition and fees for the DVM program, please visit the financial services website http://www.fa.ufl.edu/bursar/current-students/. Updated tuition and fees are posted by the University of Florida in late June or July of each year.

7. **Program contacts and additional information**

If you have questions regarding the MPH program application, please contact Mrs. Telisha Martin, MPH Associate Director, College of Public Health and Health Professions, at (352) 273-6444, or Mr. Andre McFadden II. Academic Advisor at (352) 273-7036, andre2011@ufl.edu.

If you have questions regarding the DVM application process, please contact Ms. Lynnette Chaparro, Assistant Director of Admissions, Office for Academic and Student Affairs, College of Veterinary Medicine, at (352) 293-4261, chaparrol@ufl.edu.

If you have questions regarding the Combination DVM/MPH Program (i.e. curriculum, etc), please contact Dr. Traci Krueger, DVM/MPH Program Adviser, College of Public Health and Health Professions, at (352)280-0121, kruegert@ufl.edu.